

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

ACDA-07 BIB-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

/070 W

-----036647 020032Z /72

O R 012349Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5464

INFO CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSOL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6440

CINCPA FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, KN

SUBJECT: PYONGYANG RADIO COMMENTS ON SCM

REF: A. SEOUL 5399 (DTG 290520Z JUN 77)

B. STATE 151506 (DTG 292002Z JUN 77)

C. MOSCOW 10737 (DTG 261520Z JUL 77)

D. STATE 178484 (DTG 292051Z JUL 77)

SUMMARY: PYONGYANG RADIO "AUTHORIZED" COMMENTARY ON SCM

CONTINUES RESTRAINT WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED RECENT

IMPORTANT NORTH KOREAN STATEMENTS REGARDING THE U.S.

THE STATEMENT APPEARS TO BE AN EFFORT TO STRIKE A BALANCE

BETWEEN THE NEED TO CRITICIZE A COMPARATIVELY UNFAVORABLE

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EVENT WHILE AVOIDING THE KIND OF DIRECT ATTACK AND

INVECTIVE WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE APPARENTLY

LESS AUTHORITATIVE "JOINT STRUGGLE MONTH" BROADCASTS

AND WHICH MIGHT RUN THE RISK OF ANTAGONIZING THE U.S.

END SUMMARY

1. OFFICIAL COMMENTARY BY KCNA ON RECENTLY

COMPLETED US-ROK SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (SCM) IN JULY 30 BROADCAST APPEARS TO CONTINUE THE PATTERN OF RESTRAINED COMMENT (JULY 14 HELICOPTER INCIDENT, SECRETARY VANCE'S JUNE 29 SPEECH) OR NOT COMMENT AT ALL (BROWN/HABIB VISIT). MORE STRIDENT INVECTIVE CONTINUES TO BE DIRECTED BY RPR AT LESS SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR EVENTS WITH MILITARY CONNOTATION. DURING THE PAST "JOINT STRUGGLE MONTH" BOTH KCNA AND THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY FOR REUNIFICATION (RPR) HAVE CASTIGATED THE U.S. AS "IMPERIALIST AGRESSORS" AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY CONNECTED WITH A MILITARY EVENT (TRANSFERRING ARMS TO THE ROK). THESE BROADCASTS ARE FREQUENTLY UNATTRIBUTED AND APPARENTLY ARE BROADCAST ALMOST ROUTINELY.

2. JULY 30 COMMENTARY ON SCM WAS CLEARLY LABELED AS "AUTHORIZED" AND WAS THUS OBVIOUSLY CAREFULLY PREPARED, AND WAS PROBABLY APPROVED BY KIM IL SONG. SCM COMMENTARY WAS MODERATE IN TONE, ALTHOUGHT IT MOVED A STEP CLOSER TO DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT BY NOTING THAT THE "CARTER ADMINISTRATION" WAS VIOLATING ITS TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLEDGE IN ADDITION TO ITS HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN PLEDGES. ALTHOUGH THE TONE OF THIS BROADCAST IS CONSISTENT WITH KIM IL SONG'S OWN RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE UNITED STATES IN HIS YOMIURI AND LE MONDE INTERVIEWS, THE CONCLUSIONS THAT

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IT REACHES REGARDING U.S. INTENTIONS TO CONTINUE ITS "PLAN OF A WAR OF AGRESSION" AND ITS "PREROGATIVE OF SUPREME COMMAND AND DOMINATION OVER KOREA" ARE LESS CHARITABLE THAN THOSE WHICH KIM IL SONG REACHES IN YOMIURI AND LE MONDE INTERVIEWS. KIM HIMSELF DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS "SUBORDINATES", HOWEVER, AND BY NOT CRITICISING PRESIDENT CARTER DIRECTLY THE JULY 30 KCNA COMMENTARY IS APPARENTLY CONTINUING THIS DISTINCTION, THOUGH LESS OBVIOUSLY.

3. THE KCNA COMMENTARY APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE NECESSITY TO CRITICISE AN EVENT WHICH NORTH KOREA HAS ALWAYS REGARDED AS INHERENTLY HOSTILE AND AN APPARENTLY CONTINUING DESIRE NOT TO ANTAGONIZE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND THEREBY POSSIBLY PLACE AT RISK THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM THE ROK.

4. THE SPEED WITH WHICH MOSCOW RELEASED ITS COMMENTARIES, AND THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THEIR CONCLUSIONS AND P'YONGYANG'S STRIKE US AS CURIOUS. PRC AMBASSADOR IN PYONGYANG SUBSEQUENTLY FELT CONSTRAINED TO MAKE HIS

OWN STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE PYONGYANG POSITION.
EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTARY
ON THIS PHENOMENON THAT OUR COLLEAGUES IN OTHER CAPITALS
WISH TO MAKE.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO COMMENTS, INFORMATION CONTROL, PRESS CONFERENCES, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Subject: PYONGYANG RADIO COMMENTS ON SCM
TAGS: MPOL, KN, (KIM IL-SONG)
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Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b90f2250-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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